

# KNOW WHAT'S GOING ONTO YOUR LAND – A CHECKLIST FOR LANDSPREADING WASTE

## *A guide to using wastes and recycled materials on your farm*

### MAXIMISE THE BENEFITS BUT MINIMISE THE RISKS

Farmers need to be aware of waste regulations when bringing material onto their farm. Depositing unsuitable materials onto farmland could leave you with expensive clean-up costs, or even facing prosecution.

Waste and waste derived materials are brought onto farm for a variety of purposes, including:

- fertilising/soil conditioning value;
- for animal bedding.

Materials offered to farmers can include:

- waste gypsum and wastes from the manufacture of cement
- food wastes and sludges;
- paper pulp and wood waste;
- composts and digestates;

As a farmer, supplier or spreading contractor you need to make sure you follow the rules and know what you are applying to the soil or using on your farm.

### HOW DO YOU KEEP IT LEGAL?

There are clear legal responsibilities on the producer of waste and the contractor/supplier who is providing it to you and/or spreading it on your land. An environmental permit or waste exemption is needed to supply, store or use waste material and for some activities, a specific deployment<sup>1</sup> is needed to spread the waste. Having a deployment means that the material has been assessed to make sure that it provides an agricultural benefit at a specific location and application rate whilst not harming the environment.

As the person or business accepting the waste you are also bound by a 'duty of care' to ensure that the waste you are accepting meets the necessary legal requirements. If you find material which is not as described on the waste transfer note, permit or exemption, or if you suspect that the waste is not fit for purpose, you should refuse the material and contact the relevant environmental authority.

Authorities can check waste carrier licences and permits/exemptions and may also take action against those depositing unsuitable or non-permitted materials.

<sup>1</sup>A deployment is a site specific permission that is required under a mobile plant permit. It is applied for by the person who holds the permit and is agreed with the regulator. It lasts 12mths and the details on the deployment must be complied with.

## WHAT TO CHECK?



1	Is the material a waste? If unsure ask the supplier and get written confirmation.	
2	Do you know what the waste is and where it comes from?	
3	Does it need a waste exemption or permit and deployment? If unsure contact the Environment Agency.	
4	Check the operator is a registered waste carrier and ask for waste transfer notes upon delivery. These should be kept as a record for at least two years.	
5	Has the exemption been registered or deployment issued before deliveries begin?	
6	Check the waste <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Is it what you were expecting (solid, liquid, sludge)?</li> <li>■ Check each delivery to see it matches agreed specification</li> <li>■ Record tonnages delivered and delivery dates</li> <li>■ Are there contaminants you don't want to spread e.g. plastic, metals, stones?</li> </ul>	
7	Check the storage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Is the storage site at the same place as that identified in the deployment/exemption?</li> <li>■ Is the waste being stored in an appropriate location i.e. not over land drains, 10m of a watercourse, or 50m from a spring or borehole.</li> <li>■ Are there appropriate measures for containing leaks and spills?</li> <li>■ Are free board limits being complied with?</li> <li>■ Only store what you need to spread and no greater than allowed in the deployment/exemption.</li> <li>■ Wastes shall be stored for no longer than 12 months under either an exemption (U10) or a deployment.</li> <li>■ It should be secure with no public access (footpaths etc)</li> </ul>	
8	Check the application <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Is the application rate what crop/ soil needs?</li> <li>■ Is application following the Codes of Good Agricultural Practice (CoGAP)?</li> <li>■ Is application appropriate for weather conditions?</li> <li>■ Are NVZ regulations being complied with?</li> <li>■ Are the Farming Rules for Water being complied with?</li> <li>■ Are steps taken to minimise impacts of odour, dust or flies</li> </ul>	
9	Check the management of the waste operator <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Do you know who is responsible for ensuring the spreading is done properly?</li> <li>■ Do you have their contact details?</li> </ul>	

We want to promote the safe and lawful recovery of wastes in agriculture but we need you to exercise sensible precautions to avoid expensive mistakes or harm to you, your livestock or the environment.

Would you like to find out more about your environmental permit and waste exemptions?

In England? Contact Environment Agency

**03708 506 506** or visit **www.gov.uk**